



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District

Norton Basin & Little Bay, NY

Section 207 Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: Norton Basin and Little Bay are two dead-end basins located on the north shore of the eastern Rockaway Peninsula connected by a common channel leading into the southeastern edge of Jamaica Bay. Historical dredging of both Norton Basin and Little Bay created 45-65 feet borrow pits which are presently oxygen starved and degraded, with poor sediment quality. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are undertaking a feasibility-level study to investigate alternatives to recontour Little Bay and Norton Basin borrow pits with an estimated 1.9 million cubic yards of dredged materials to achieve an average depth of 15-20 feet MLW. Restoration of up to 66 acres of benthic habitat and significant improvement in water quality are anticipated as an environmental benefits of the project. The basin areas would be monitored following construction to evaluate and document project success.

AUTHORIZATION: This project is authorized by Section 207, 33 U.S.C. 2326, Beneficial Uses of Dredged Materials. The Norton Basin & Little Bay Section 207 Project will evaluate opportunities for beneficial use of dredged material generated from the ongoing NY-NJ Harbor Deepening Project, authorized for construction in Section 101(a)(2), WRDA 2000 (P.L.106-541).

STATUS: Extensive baseline sampling was conducted from 1994-2004. The Norton Basin and Little Bay borrow pits were both listed as placement options in the *Draft Dredged Material Management Plan for the Port of New York and New Jersey - Implementation Report, Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Technical Appendix (USACE 1999)*. A Project Management Plan was completed in March 2007 to develop the project's schedule, costs and activity descriptions for planning, engineering and design. A feasibility document and Environmental Assessment, will be prepared for the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, and released for review and comment by the public in Fall 2007. Meetings and coordination will precede report preparation to scope out the study. The project goal is to realize a long-standing restoration objective by pairing with an opportunity to beneficially use dredged materials, determined to be suitable for the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS), as part of the 2008/2009 work program scheduled for NY-NJ Harbor Deepening Project.

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